(c) whether collecting such funds to set up power plant and advertisement for the purpose is not in the national interest;

(d) if not, the reasons for not accepting the proposal;

(e) whether Government propose to reconsider the issue and accept the advertisement; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir;

(b) to (f) Both All India Radio and Doordarshan have accepted the advertisement insofar as it relates to an appeal to the listening public for depositing money in small saving schemes for the development of the State. However, the portion of the advertisement relating to the direct appeal for the donation to the Bakreswar Thermal Power Plant Fund has not been allowed as such an appeal is not in conformity with the established convention followed by the media in this regard.

Reduction in the Allotment of Rice to West Bengal

309. SHRIMATI KANK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the allotment of rice has been further reduced for West Bengal in this year;

(b) what was the monthly allotment of rice in the last year and what is the allotment in this year;

(c) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the inferior quality of rice being supplied this year; and

(d) if so, the details of steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) The allocation of rice to various States/Union Territories was reviewed in February, 1989 keeping in view overall availability of stocks in the Central Pool, relative needs of various States, improved market availability on arrival of new rice crop and the fact that the supply to Public Distribution System is only supplemental in nature. As a result of the review, the rice quota of most States, including West Bengal, was reduced uniformaly by 20 per cent.

(b) The required information is given in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below).

(c) Yes, Sir. Attention of the Government was drawn to the release of stocks of rice procured under relaxed specification in Punjab and Haryana about which the State Governments have already been suitably informed.

(d) Instructions have already been issued by Food Corporation of India to all Zonal Managers/Senior Regional Managers to ensure that rice conforming only to purchase specifications is issued against alloactions.

Statement

The allotment of rice for PDS made to West Bengal during the years, 1988 and 1989 (Upto March).

(In '000 tonnes)

1988 Months	Allotment
January, 1988	125.0
February, 1988	110.0
March, 1988	100.0
April, 1988	85.0
May, 1988	85.0
June, 1988	80.0
July, 1988	80.0
August, 1988	80·0
September, 1988	80.0
October, 1988	80.0
November, 1988	85·0
December, 1988	80.0
1989	
January, 1989	80.0
February, 1989	64. 0
March, 1989	64. 0